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ACTION AID-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 A-00 WHA-00 EB-00 UTED-00 VC-00
TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 OES-01 PM-00 P-00 STR-00
TEST-00 PMB-00 CCR-01 SAS-00 /002W
-----E4E949 100602Z /25

R 091038Z SEP 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7588

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 002747

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, PGOV, ECON, SOCI, VE

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR CAMARA GARRETT, USAID OFFICE
OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES (OTI) SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2002

1. MAIQUETIA AIRPORT NEAR CARACAS IS DANGEROUS!!! PLEASE
PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE SECURITY INFORMATION IN
PARAGRAPH 8. BECAUSE OF THE FREQUENCY OF ROBBERIES AT
GUNPOINT, WE ENCOURAGE TRAVELERS, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO
ARRIVE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO
ARRIVE DURING THE DAY, PLEASE USE EXTRA CARE BOTH WITHIN AND
OUTSIDE OF THE AIRPORT.

2. VENEZUELAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS HAVE RECENTLY BEGUN
REQUIRING CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN OTHER
COUNTRIES TO HAVE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS VALIDITY REMAINING ON
THEIR PASSPORTS TO ENTER VENEZUELA. WHILE THIS LAW HAS NOT
BEEN UNIFORMLY ENFORCED, SOME U.S. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DENIED
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ENTRY. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISES U.S. CITIZENS TO
ENSURE THAT THEIR PASSPORTS HAVE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS
VALIDITY FROM THE DATE OF EXPECTED ENTRY INTO VENEZUELA.

3. PROVISIONAL COUNTRY CLEARANCE IS BEING GRANTED TO THE
TRAVELER(S) LISTED BELOW. BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL AND
POLITICAL UNREST IN VENEZUELA, THE EMBASSY STRONGLY
RECOMMENDS THAT ALL TRAVELERS RECONFIRM COUNTRY CLEARANCE
SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

4. THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CARACAS WELCOMES CAMARA GARRETT,
USAID OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES FROM SEPTEMBER 11
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2002. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO

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ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THE USAID OFFICE AND TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR USAID'S PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF DIALOGUE AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN VENEZUELA.

6. THE EMBASSY POINT OF CONTACT IS THOMAS STUKEL, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES, CALLE F CON CALLE SUAPURE, COLINAS DE VALLE ARRIBA, CARACAS, VENEZUELA. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IN THE EMBASSY IS 58-212-975-6318, EXT. 2493 /

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, AFTER HOURS ASSISTANCE CAN BE OBTAINED BY PHONING EMBASSY MARINE GUARD POST ONE AT

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7. LODGING AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS. RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN HOTEL J.W. MARRIOTT. THE ADDRESS IS AVE. VENEZUELA CON CALLE MOHEDANO, EL ROSAL. TELEPHONE 957-2222, FAX: 951-0652. EMBASSY TRANSPORTATION AND AN EXPEDITOR HAS ALSO BEEN ARRANGED TO MEET MR. GARRETT. CONFIRMATION NUMBERS ARE PENDING.

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THE ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

SEPTEMBER 11 ATLANTA TO CARACAS
ARRIVING AT 8:28 PM ON DELTA 0907
SEPTEMBER 20 CARACAS TO MIAMI
LEAVING AT 2:00 PM ON AMERICAN FLIGHT 2140

8. CURRENCY CONVERSION. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT TRAVELERS OBTAIN SOME LOCAL CURRENCY (BOLIVARES) BEFORE DEPARTING THE U.S. THE EXCHANGE FACILITY AT THE MAIQUETIA AIRPORT MAY BE CLOSED BY THE TIME YOU ARRIVE. THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE IS APPROXIMATELY USD 1=BS. 1400.

9. TRANSPORTATION FROM MAIQUETIA AIRPORT TO THE CITY OF CARACAS. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF ROBBERY AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT. PLEASE PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. IT IS FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF YOU AND YOUR POCKET BOOK.

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ACTION AID-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	A-00	WHA-00	EB-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00	OES-01	PM-00	P-00	STR-00
	TEST-00	PMB-00	CCR-01	SAS-00	/002W		
					-----E4E957	100603Z	/25

R 091038Z SEP 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7589

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 002747

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, PGOV, ECON, SOCI, VE
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR CAMARA GARRETT, USAID OFFICE
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10. DEPARTURE EXPENSES. AN AIRPORT USER FEE OF USD 35 IN BOLIVARES (APPROXIMATELY BS. 50,000) IS LEVIED AT THE AIRPORT UPON DEPARTURE FOR HOLDERS OF OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. HOLDERS OF TOURIST PASSPORTS MUST PAY THE USER FEE PLUS AN EXIT TAX, FOR A TOTAL OF USD 52 IN BOLIVARES (APPROXIMATELY BS. 70,000). PAYMENT OF BOTH MUST BE MADE IN BOLIVARES.

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13. MEDICAL INFORMATION. THE WATER IS CONSIDERED CONTAMINATED IN VENEZUELA. DRINK ONLY BOTTLED WATER OR CARBONATED SOFT DRINKS. AVOID HAVING ICE IN DRINKS SINCE ICE IS NOT ALWAYS MADE FROM TREATED WATER. DO NOT EAT RAW VEGETABLES OR FRUITS UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN DISINFECTED, PEELED OR COOKED. WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH HOT SOAPY WATER.

NUMEROUS CASES OF DENGUE FEVER AND MALARIA ARE REPORTED THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA EACH YEAR. AS DENGUE FEVER IS

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TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOES, TRAVELERS PLANNING TO SPEND TIME
OUTDOORS SHOULD BRING INSECT REPELLENT; WEAR LONG TROUSERS

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ACTION AID-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 A-00 WHA-00 EB-00 UTED-00 VC-00
TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 OES-01 PM-00 P-00 STR-00
TEST-00 PMB-00 CCR-01 SAS-00 /002W
-----E4E96C 100604Z /25

R 091038Z SEP 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7590

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 002747

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WHEN POSSIBLE AND AVOID WET AREAS THAT COULD SERVE AS
BREEDING GROUNDS. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE FEVER, HEADACHES,
DIARRHEA AND GENERAL MALAISE. ALTHOUGH THESE SICKNESSES ARE
RARELY FATAL, YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR IF YOU EXPERIENCE
THESE SYMPTOMS.

14. WEATHER IN CARACAS. DAYTIME TEMPERATURES IN CARACAS
ARE USUALLY BETWEEN 75 AND 85 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. DURING
THE RAINY SEASON, ROUGHLY FROM APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER,
AFTERNOON RAIN SHOWERS ARE COMMON. EVENINGS CAN BE COOL AT
ANY TIME OF THE YEAR. POST RECOMMENDS THAT TRAVELERS BRING
A SWEATER OR LIGHT JACKET FOR EVENING OUTINGS, AND AN
UMBRELLA, NO MATTER THE TIME OF YEAR.

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15. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PRESS. VISITORS WHO HAVE ANY
REASON TO BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PRESS WHILE
IN VENEZUELA SHOULD SPEAK WITH THE EMBASSY PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER OR THE PRESS ATTACH SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL.

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